

CHANCE FOR THE INVENTOR

Suggested Improvement Over the Mail Boxes at Present in Use in City Plaza.

A letter carrier on his way through West One Hundred and Eleventh street the other day stopped at the entrance to an apartment house and gave a quick glance upward. Dangling on a level with his head almost was a small tin box. It swung at the end of a string that reached up to a window of the apartment house three stories above.

The letter carrier nodded, smiled and placed a letter within the box, which was quickly pulled up by a girl at the third story window. The carrier left a bunch of letters with the elevator boy, while the ventriloquist, who carried the string, was the quickest of all.

"Remember the mail?" repeated the carrier, with the query of a curious child. "Not at all. Just a convenience of the girl's so that she would not have to wait until the elevator man sorted the mail or tip him after its delivery. And do you know there's a fortune for the man who can arrange something like it in five stories?"

Take the four and five-story houses with no elevators. Suppose the letter boxes were so arranged that they could be pulled up to the different apartments now using them as elevator receptacles for mail. Do you see what a blessing it would be? Why a landlord could raise the rent and the rates would be met without protest. I have spoken to an architect friend about it. He's working on it. How long? Oh, about five years now, but he'll make it yet. All it needs, he says, is a really sound cable. Well, cable, which consists of galvanized wire twisted and twisted, does not stretch, and it does not break. It

FRANCE MAY GIVE UP COLONY

St. Pierre and Miquelon Islands Signifies the End of Her American Empire.

The possibility that the Miquelon archipelago, the last North American possession of France, may be annexed to Newfoundland at the close of the European war is receiving serious consideration in that colony.

The little islands of St. Pierre, Miquelon and Langlade, a short distance off the south coast of Newfoundland have formed for two centuries the advance base for the French and English in the Atlantic Ocean.

In recent years the growing importance of the colony has opened discussion about any possibility of industrial progress for some time in coming to be delayed when the French government in February last announced to the able bodied men in the island the colors.

The town of St. Pierre, where most of the colonists live, is now inhabited only by aged men, women and children. It is considered probable that much of the countryside now carrying on war will be reluctant to return to struggling conditions in the future. It will soon be a ghost town.

There has been no French war ship here since 1914. The only French ship in the harbor is the French mail steamer, the *Le Tourterelle*, which comes here once a week. The French government has no intention of sending any more troops to the island, and it is generally expected that the French will give up the islands to the British.